

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES  
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

March 06, 2025  
3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.  
Austin Hall

**Senators Present (26)** Michael Arrington (CHSS), Traci Austin (COBA), Emma Bullock (COSET), Patrick Buzzini (CJ), Jennifer Child (CHSS), Lindsay Clark (COBA), Miltonette Craig (CJ), Kevin Crouch (CAM), Magdalena Denham (CJ), Brandy Doleshal (COSET), Dustin Gross (COSET), Debbi Hatton (CAM), Owen Kelly (COM), Nick Lantz (CHSS), Kimberly LaPrairie (COE), Ricardo Montelongo (COE), Audrey Murfin (CHSS), Jill Pagels (COE), Erica Pasquini (COHS), Todd Primm (COSET), Bradley Seaberg (CHSS), Zachary Valdes (NGL), Xiaobo Belle Wang (CHSS), Rebecca Wentworth (COE), Darren Williams (COSET), Willow Yang (COBA).

**Senators Not Present (4):** Irfan Ahmed (COBA), Miriam Akoto (CHSS), Victoria Lantz (CAM), Kenneth McIntyre (CHSS).

**Guests:** Volha Minich (COSET)

**Call to Order**

3:30 PM

**Special Guest**

David P. Glaser, Chief Strategy Officer, Sam Houston State University. General Glaser presented on the Keep-Stop-Start survey progress, Fall 2024 results, and planning initiatives for future iterations. Faculty can look at unfiltered data.

Out of 88 Keep-Stop-Start initiatives from Spring 24, 51 have been completed, 37 are in progress and scheduled to be done this fiscal year. Unactioned S24 Keep-Stop-Start initiatives will be moved to FY 26 planning sessions. General Glaser discussed the way KSS initiatives move from survey data to incorporation in the SHSU Strategic plan.

General Glaser is optimistic about opportunities for SHSU to address needs of a growing population. He presented on population growth in Texas, particularly Harris, Fort Bend, Montgomery, and Walker County.

Senators asked General Glaser about the need to reach out to local ISDs. General Glaser emphasized the role of reaching out to local community groups and suggested a discussion with Enrollment Management about specific ISDs. In response to questions about enrollment growth, General Glaser noted positive signs in student applications, which are 7-10% above our best years and almost 20% above last year. He credited these gains to the new marketing website, college efforts, and processes like KSS.

Senators noted the need for student voice, and that our university doesn't look like Houston, demographically. General Glaser referenced work by Jeanine Bias on student contributions. General Glaser briefs Student Government with the same material, and students are on the workgroups for the Strategic Plan.

**Approval of Minutes**

February 20, 2025 meeting. The minutes were approved with 9 abstentions.

**Senate Committee Reports**

## *Committee on Committees & Surveys*

Efforts are underway to conduct 2024-25 *Committee Preference* and *Faculty Perception* surveys with targeted report distributions of May 1, 2025. Our survey list may not reflect the most up to date institutional structure. Senate discussed confusion over the role of directors and whether they should be included; however, the word director isn't used consistently across campus. Senate Chair Valdes will verify our current list with Academic Affairs.

Senate discussed the possibility of including chairs on the survey, but there were practical issues, including anonymity and the existence of separate chair evaluations.

## **New Business**

### **Senate Committee Assignments**

#### Academic Affairs Committee

- APS 240305– *Curriculum Development and Revision*  
Note: *New Policy*. A new policy on curriculum development and revision was prepared to formalize the curriculum process, as well as establish expectations for curriculum developers and reviewers.

## **Senate Discussion**

Senate discussed the status of the Faculty Handbook. The handbook has been downloaded 155 times. The sections on policies and procedures and the academic success page are most used. The last round of revisions was done by Faculty Affairs, led by Senator N. Lantz. Senator Lantz noted that most of the revisions were updating details such as titles and policy numbers, and suggested the handbook be focused more strictly on policies that affect faculty jobs, rights and responsibilities.

Senators agreed that Faculty Senate would like to retain control of the handbook and discussed what parts were truly useful to faculty (the list of policies, but maybe we should survey faculty to see what else).

## **Unfinished Business**

Senate continued discussion of University committee activity. Perhaps some committees could be dissolved, but Senators raised concerns that some committees have been created to get faculty input, so dissolving committees that don't meet might not be a satisfactory solution.

Senator N. Lantz moved to check in on the committees. Senator Crouch seconded. All were in favor.

## **Chair's Report**

Senate Chair Valdes gave an update on the search for a new provost. The first in person meetings will be around the time of commencement. The hope is to have someone in place by May. Although Senate Chair Valdes is on the committee, he is bound by a confidentiality agreement.

Faculty have approached senators with concerns about a data request from the Texas Lt. Governor to SHSU Faculty Records. Academic Affairs confirmed the request, stating that requests like this are not uncommon during legislative sessions. No context for the request was given.

Faculty approached by ICE on campus should refer them to UPD.

Senate Chair Valdes has spoken to Provost Stephenson about the possibility of toll-year option in the event external conditions negatively impact faculty productivity. Provost Stephenson discussed the possibility with TSUS System and the response was encouraging.

Update on status of faculty lines and/or impact on hiring activities in relation to Resource Allocation Review: There are no hiring freezes through Fall 2025. After that time, it will be up to the new provost.

Final Exam Schedule: There have been reports of some final exams being scheduled on days that are not consistent with course schedule. Dr. Gaillard is investigating this with the registrar. It's too late to change this semester's schedule but they will try to resolve for the future.

Report from the Texas Council of Faculty Senates Conference: There was a lot of discussion about pending legislation. Many schools across the state are pushing to increase Carnegie Research classification, but that isn't on the radar at SHSU.

#### Upcoming Special Guests List

- March 20<sup>th</sup> - Dr. Maria Botero, Professor and Philosophy Program Coordinator, presenting on joint initiative with Academic Affairs to support mental health wellness for faculty and staff
- April 24<sup>th</sup> - Dr. Michael T. Stephenson, Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs; and Dr. Anne R. Gaillard, Vice Provost – general Q&A

#### **Announcements**

- Health Sciences Summer Camp: COHS is now accepting applications from junior and senior high school students for its annual COHS Summer Camp event. For more information, please see the provided flyer, or reach out to Heather Adams at [heatheradams@shsu.edu](mailto:heatheradams@shsu.edu).

**Adjournment:** 5:01 PM.